



# The Evangelist

The St John's Primary School Newsletter

Wednesday 2nd August 2017 Term 3 Week 3

*Dear Parents / Carers*



I am sharing the following Gospel passage with the staff at our weekly prayer. You will hear this passage at Mass on Sunday. I encourage you to contemplate the Gospel reflection below:

**Gospel Mt 17:1-9** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
*His face was shining like the sun.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

## **Gospel Reflection**

*Jesus takes his most trusted disciples up a high mountain to allow them to share in what he knows is about to occur. It is a very clear teaching moment in which Jesus hopes the disciples are going to finally grasp the truth about him. As the disciples stand by, Jesus is transformed before them – suddenly bathed in light and his clothes become dazzlingly white. The disciples also see Moses and Elijah standing and talking with Jesus. Moses was the great Law-giver of Jewish tradition and Elijah the great prophet. Together, they represent the Law and the Prophets – the combined wisdom that make up the tradition of Jewish teaching and Jewish scripture. It is the Law and the Prophets that Jesus' life and ministry brings to fulfilment. It is fitting that Moses and Elijah appear beside Jesus, as the three figures combined represent the fullness of Jewish tradition – the Law of Moses; the challenge and promise of the Prophets; and the compassion of Jesus that completes the other two. Sadly, the disciples don't really get the point of what they see before them. Peter, caught up in the moment, wants to build tents on the spot to mark the moment and to continue to dwell in the moment. Jesus, however, leads them back down the mountain – back into the valley; back into the reality of life; back into the tragedy that he knows lies before them. No matter how powerful a religious experience may be, Jesus shows us that we always have to return to real life. It is not possible to remain on the 'mountaintop' as Peter would have liked to do;*

***We have to take the experience back into the everyday of our lives.***

*Sunday's Gospel gives more than a hint as to what we believe. This was no out-of-body experience of religious ecstasy. This was an utterly bodily experience. Jesus' body was translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light.*

**Curriculum Overviews** were sent home last week. Parents / Carers are reminded to use the overview to discuss their child/s learning with them.

On Monday we **welcomed Mrs Kim Roffmann** to our school community. Mrs Roffmann comes with a wealth of experience and will be a great asset, both as part of the Stage 3 teaching / learning team and in her leadership role as Religious Education Coordinator. I'm confident that you will join with us in welcoming Mrs Roffmann into our community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Espiritu for taking up the role of Liturgy Coordinator in the absence of a REC. Miss Espiritu did a fantastic job in coordinating liturgies; supporting the parish sacramental team and addressing other RE matters. I have appreciated Miss Espiritu's leadership in this role and her commitment to Religious Education at St John's.

St John's **Parent Information Evening** on 'Growth Mindset' was a great success. Mr Fisher's presentation was informative and engaging and provided parents with a number of strategies that they can use at home in developing positive attitudes to learning and in building confidence, persistence and resilience in their children. Thank you to the parents / carers who were able to attend this event. Mr Fisher, Mrs Izci and Mrs Roffmann will be attending a **Project Based Learning Course** this week (Wednesday – Friday) to support them in designing a project that will engage Stage 3 in learning experiences at a deeper level. Project Based Learning is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge. In the 21st century workplaces; secondary schooling and in colleges, success requires more than basic knowledge and skills. In a **project**, students learn how to take initiative and responsibility, build their confidence, solve problems, work in teams, communicate ideas, and manage themselves more effectively. PBL helps address educational standards.

On Sunday the **Stage 2 and Stage 3 students celebrated a very special Mass with the parish.** I would like to thank the students for their reverent participation in the liturgy. During this Mass a number of our students enrolled in the Parish Sacramental Program to prepare for the reception of First Holy Communion, *Jacob Camilleri, Tallara Snence, Jessica Spryn, Chanelle Xerri.* We ask you to keep these children in your prayers. Thank you to Mr Shields, Mrs Izci, Mrs Stafford and Mrs Roffmann for supporting the children at this Mass. Your generosity in time is very much appreciated.

Last week our senior students participated in the diocesan **netball gala day.** Two teams (girls senior team and a boy's senior team), 22 children in total represented our school. The students enjoyed the competition against other schools in our diocese.



As we draw closer to our **school fete** we need to consider the ways in which we can support the school community group. Stage 3 have started **growing the herbs** for the plant stall. Children are encouraged to continue to bring in items for the Tombo-la stall. Thank you for your support of the **gold coin pyjama day** last Thursday. The proceeds of this event provided funds to the SCG for the fete. This event raised \$155.50. Teachers and students are beginning to make plans for their art piece for the auction at the fete. More information about the auction will be sent home closer to the fete.

*God Bless, Patricia.*

## **ST JOHN'S PARISH YOUTH GROUP**

ALL CHILDREN FROM YEAR 1 AND OLDER ARE INVITED TO ATTEND  
EVERYONE IS WELECOME TO COME ALONG TO  
JOIN IN THE FUN ACTIVITES EVERY 2ND FRIDAY COMMENCING  
FRIDAY 11TH AUGUST FROM 6PM  
**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!!!!**



# **SCHOOL CENSUS**

**WILL BE ON THIS**

**FRIDAY 4TH AUGUST 2017**

**ALL STUDENTS NEED TO BE AT SCHOOL ON THIS DAY**

**IF A STUDENT IS ABSENT ON  
CENSUS DAY THE PARENT/CARER MUST  
CONTACT THE SCHOOL TO NOTIFY WHY  
THE STUDENTS IS ABSENT AND A  
WRITTEN/SIGNED EXPLANATION ALONG  
WITH A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE MUST BE  
HANDED INTO THE OFFICE BY THE  
PARENT/CARER BY  
MONDAY 7TH AUGUST 2017**

# **NEW CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER**

**FOR ST JOHN'S**

**PRIMARY SCHOOL**

St John's Primary School has been migrated to a new telephone system by the CEDP and therefore we have a new telephone number.

Please update your records

**02 9854 3200**

## ***Tips for Parents to Improve a Child's Writing Skills.***

# LITERACY

Writing is an essential skill. It is more than just putting words on paper. Writing is a process of communication that plays an important role in your child's life—both in and out of the classroom. Parents can make a big difference in helping a child develop writing skills by encouraging writing activities that are simple and fun.

The following are some examples of activities parents can do with their child to promote writing at home:

- ***Send a Message*** - Frequently leave notes on pillows, desks, mirrors, wherever. Have your child write you a note in return. A family chalkboard or message board is a great tool for encouraging your child to write messages.
- ***Letters*** - Make letter writing a habit for your child. Have your child write letters to family and friends.
- ***"Year in Review" Scrapbook*** - Keep an ongoing record of your family's life. Every family member can add to your family's story. Include important events that happen during the year. To add to your story, include family photos, brochures and ticket stubs of family outings and events.
- ***Postcards*** - Have your child write and mail postcards on family vacations or special outings.
- ***Say "Thank You"*** - Let your child get in the habit of writing "Thank You" notes for gifts or whenever it is appropriate to do so.
- ***Make a Menu*** - Let your child design and write the menu for a family dinner. This is a great activity that will keep a child busy while mom or dad is cooking.
- ***Travel log*** - When you go on trips or special outings, have your child record new sights and experiences from his/her journey.

Remember that the important thing for parents to focus on is the content more than grammar and other details of his/her child's writing. ***When a child begins to write, he/she runs the risk of receiving criticism—parents have the job of encouraging their child to continue.*** Writing is a skill and habit. Helping your child put thoughts into words gives him/her a great sense of accomplishment. Fostering good writing habits and showing an interest in your child's writing will make a big difference in their attitude towards writing.



*Pauline Berry*  
*Leader of Literacy*

# WHAT'S COMING UP

4th August	CENSUS DAY
11th August	Movie Night & BBQ Dinner 5.30pm
21st August	Book week commences (Theme: Escape to Everywhere)
21 August	PRC Meeting 7pm
25th August	Father's Day Stall 11.30-1.30
31st August	VOY STAGE 3
1st September	Father's Day Liturgy & Afternoon Tea 1.45pm
11th September	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
14th & 15th September	STAGE 3 OVERNIGHT CAMP
16th September	ST JOHN'S SPRING FETE

every learner  
every day 

School Name  School Attendance Level %

St Johns Primary Riverstone

 83.3%

Scholastic Year	Sch Yr Attendance Level %
K	 94.7%
01	 82.9%
02	 83.9%
03	 80.0%
04	 60.2%
05	 93.3%
06	 80.0%

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

PLEASE MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR

THE NEXT STAFF  
DEVELOPMENT DAY WILL BE HELD ON

**MONDAY 11TH  
SEPTEMBER 2017**

**'NO STUDENTS AT  
SCHOOL ON THIS DAY'**

# TERM 3 SCHOOL FEES REMINDER

Term 3 School Fees have been sent out by CEDP and are due on the 21st August 2017

Please contact Deanne Hearnden in the school office if you would like to discuss fees further or you would like to set up a payment arrangement.

Discussing of fees will be dealt with confidentially and each person is guaranteed that they will be treated with respect and dignity.



*Congratulations to the*

*Camillori Family*

*Aaron, Jacob and Ryan*

*On the arrival of their beautiful baby sister*

*Grace*

*Born Wednesday 26th July 2017*

*Weighing 2.8kg Length 50cm*

## LATE ARRIVALS

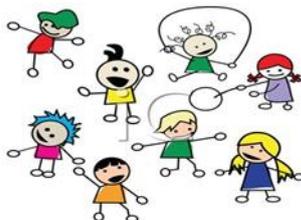
**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS/CARERS**

**THE GATE NEAR THE KISS AND DROP AREA WILL BE CLOSED BY THE TEACHER ON DUTY AT THE CONCLUSION OF KISS AND DROP DAILY**

***IF YOU ARRIVE AFTER THE BELL AT 8.50am YOU WILL NEED TO USE THE INTERCOM TO GAIN ENTRY AND MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR CHILD TO THE OFFICE TO COMPLETE A LATE ARRIVAL/PARTIAL ABSENCE FORM, YOUR CHILD WILL BE GIVEN A LATE ARRIVAL PASS TO HAND TO THEIR CLASS TEACHER TO CONFIRM THAT A PARTIAL ABSENCE HAS BEEN PROCESSED BY THE OFFICE STAFF***

**WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT REGARDING THIS MATTER**

**Parent Representative Council (PRC)**



*This is an invitation to parents/carers of St John's to be part of a **free** information session on Every Learner Every Day*

**When:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August, 7pm

**Where:** St Patrick's Catholic Primary School- Villiers St, Parramatta

**MISSING SCHOOL = MISSING OUT**

Early primary children learn new sounds and words every day. These are important building blocks upon which all future learning is built.

Help your children achieve their best by getting them to school on time every day.

every learner every day ✓

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

## Did you know

Your child's best learning time is the start of the school day just a little bit late doesn't seem much but

He/she just missing,	That equals ..	Which is ...	and over 13 years of schooling that's ...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly half a year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40mins per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 and a half years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 and a half years

MON TUE WED THU FRI

every learner every day 

**ABSENCES ADD UP!**

FEBRUARY = 2 DAYS A MONTH = NOVEMBER = 4 WEEKS A YEAR = MISSING MORE THAN 1 YEAR OF LEARNING IN 12 YEARS

**DID YOU KNOW**

 **1 IN 6**  
PRIMARY STUDENTS ARE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL REGULARLY!

**WHAT PARENTS CAN DO**

- BE FIRM.** Send your child to school every day unless they are sick
- Develop good sleep and morning routines
- Schedule appointments after school
- Avoid taking holidays during term time

**EACH DAY MISSED:**

- ▶ Puts your child behind and makes it harder for them to catch up
- ▶ Can lead to lower achievement in reading, writing and numeracy
- ▶ Can lead to gaps in learning and social connections

**GOOD HABITS BEGIN EARLY**



Good attendance starts in Kindergarten and sets students up for success in their school life

**SCHOOLS ARE THERE TO HELP**

 If you're having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address it.

every learner every day  

There is additional information at [www.prc.catholic.edu.au](http://www.prc.catholic.edu.au) or you might be interested in following the PRC on Facebook.

If you are interested or would like more information I am more than happy to assist.

*Maria Galati*

***MAJOR FUNDRAISER******ST JOHN'S FETE*****SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

**St John's School Fundraising Group** are working hard organising the St John's Fete which will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

In order for our fete to be a success we will need the support of the whole school community. This term we are asking families to donate items to our collection days for a 'Tombola Stall.' The basic idea of a Tombola stall is very simple. Supporters of our fete donate items / products in advance. These items then have a number assigned to them and are put on display. During our Fete people buy tickets, which if they match the number on an item, win that prize.

***"Can you supply a small item for our Tombola?"***

Term 2, Week 2: ESI	Toiletries (eg. shampoo, conditioner, body wash, hand wash)
Term 2, Week 3: Year One	Paper products ( eg. serviettes, paper towels, tissues)
Term 2, Week 5: Year Three	Tinned soups, UDH milk products.
Term 2, Week 7: Year Four	Sauces / salad dressings ( eg. BBQ sauce, tomato sauce, Caesar dressing)
Term 3, Week 1: Year Five	Tin products (eg. vegetables, fruits, baked beans etc)
Term 3, Week 4: Year Six	Bottle products (eg. wine, soft drinks)
Term 3, Week 6: Year Two	Snacks (eg. chips, twisties, muesli bars)

Please note that with perishable products the use by date should be checked to ensure it has not expired. Keep in mind the date of the fete is the 16<sup>th</sup> of September.

***KEEP YOUR DONATIONS COMING, IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO DONATE***

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT***

# AWARDS

## Week 1 Values Award

### CARE & COMPASSION

Giovanni Galati ES1, Shaun Tolmie Stage 1,  
Tyra Gray Stage 2, Bronte Peter  
Stage 3

## Merit Award Week 1

Austyn Murray ES1, Shayla Baldock & Judd  
Yacoub Stage 1, Ella Hodges &  
Jacob Camilleri Stage 2, Jessica Spryn &  
Isaac Calleija Stage 3

## Principal Award Week 1

Nevaeh-Lee Ah-Kiau ES1, Jacob Beazley  
Stage 1, Dylan Albanis Stage 2,  
Claudine Eckersley Stage 3

## Week 2 Values Award

### DOING YOUR BEST

Manny Deguzman ES1, Lyla Dickson Stage 1,  
Hope Gibson Stage 2,  
Ryan Park Stage 3

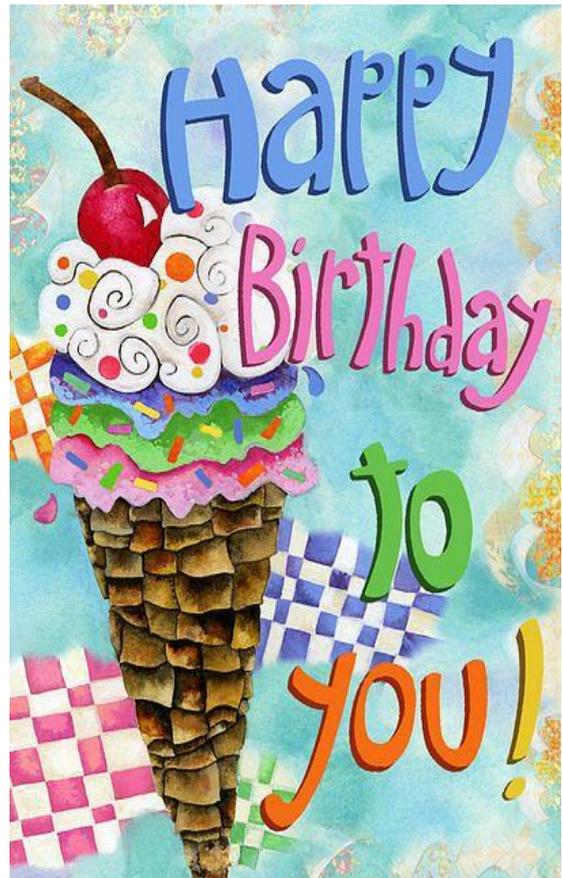
## Merit Award Week 2

Elizabeth O'Neill ES1, Roman Hanna & Ryan  
Camilleri Stage 1, Tallara Spence & Marcella  
Galati Stage 2, Benjamin Arrowsmith & Sarah  
Mansweto Stage 3

## Principal Award Week 2

Jacinta Bird ES1, Billi Watson Stage 1,  
Christopher Uildriks Stage 2,  
Jasmin Finadri Stage 3

# CONGRATULATIONS!!!!



*Vito Galati*

*23rd July,*

*Lucas Mitropoulos*

*27th July,*

*Jacinta Bird*

*28th July,*

*Aaron Camilleri*

*1st August*

every learner  
every day 

**At school we are interested in your child's**

Well being and happiness

Engagement with learning in the classroom

Social and emotional development

**The single most important thing you can do to support all of these areas is ensure they attend Every Day**

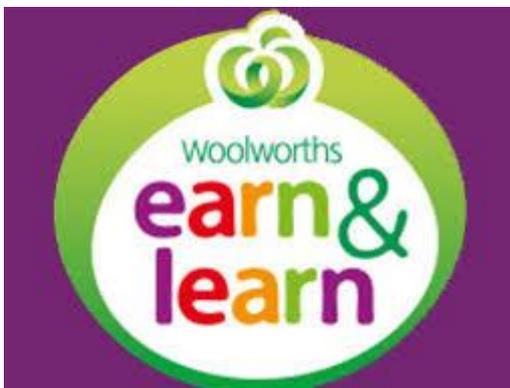


**Lunch orders are available on Monday's and Friday's from Wildcats Café.**

Please write your child's name, class and order on a brown paper bag and enclose the correct money.

Children can then place their orders in the blue lunch order boxes located in the under-croft, near the student foyer.

**Orders need to be in the boxes by 8.45am**



**LOOK FOR THE FLYER COMING HOME TODAY  
START COLLECTING TO  
SUPPORT ST JOHN'S EARN  
AMAZING SCHOOL RESOURCES**



## COMPLAINTS AND GREIVENCES

If, at any time, you find that you have a concern with the school, you are encouraged to come to the school and speak with the teacher/s, assistant principal and/or principal, to find a resolution for your concern.

It is our aim to work with all members of our school community to ensure that we do the very best we can to provide a productive, safe and enjoyable learning experience for our students and professionally fulfilling experience for our staff.

If you would like to raise a concern formally, the Catholic Education Office has procedures for ensuring that complaints are handled fairly. Information about how to lodge a complaint and a complaint form are available from the school office or in the Complaint Handling Policy and Procedures.

These documents can be accessed on the CEDP website [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au)



# Building Child Safe Communities

## Important Information for Volunteers

Thank you for your interest in volunteering. The opportunities provided to students are greatly enhanced by the contribution of volunteers. All volunteers will need to complete the **Undertaking for Volunteers' Form and Training Module** online before they can volunteer at St John's, please use the link below.

<http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/home>

### **Step 1: Complete 'Building Child Safe Communities - Undertaking for Volunteers' Form**

You will need to complete a Volunteers Form for **each location** that you volunteer. A notification of your successful completion of the form will be sent via e-mail to the volunteering location and also to your email address.

### **Step 2: Complete the online training module**

It is a system requirement that the online training module be completed by all volunteers commencing at any of our locations and the training needs to be completed every second year.

- Open the module by clicking the **Start** link below.
- Read through the presentation.

Complete and submit quiz questions (this will take approximately 10 minutes).

***NOTE: IF YOU HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED THE TRAINING MODULE YOU WILL ONLY NEED TO COMPLETE THE 'UNDERTAKING FOR VOLUNTEERS' FORM.***

# STAY IN THE LOOP SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSLETTER

**Take a look at our website and you can subscribe to receive our fortnightly newsletter, event reminders and news**

**[www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au)**

Please call into the school office and speak to our friendly office staff if you prefer to receive a black & white printed hard copy and this can be arranged for you

**KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST NEWS & INFORMATION**

# UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES

LETTERS ARE SENT HOME TO  
PARENTS/CARERS ON A WEEKLY BASIS  
REGARDING UNEXPLAINED  
ABSENCES

THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION IS  
REQUIRED URGENTLY AND NEEDS TO  
BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE  
If your child is absent from school it is  
the Parent/Carers responsibility to  
send to school with the child (on their  
return) a written explanation of the  
reason for absence and it also needs to  
be signed by the Parent/Carer. Notifi-  
cation via telephone will be accepted  
providing the caller can be verified.

This is a legal requirement.



## MORNING

## SUPERVISION

Before school supervision of  
students commences at 8.20am.  
Parents are asked not to drop off their  
children at school prior to this time.

*This is for the safety of all our  
students*

# UNIFORM EXPECTATION

Thank you very much to our parents  
for ensuring that your children  
come to school in the correct full  
school uniform and neatly  
groomed.

- ◆ BLACK LEATHER SCHOOL SHOES
- ◆ JEWELLERY - STANDARD WATCHES (Boys & Girls)
- ◆ JEWELLERY - PLAIN STUD OR SLEEPERS EARRINGS  
(Girls only)
- ◆ LONG HAIR MUST BE TIED BACK WITH REGU-  
LATION (SCHOOL COLOURS) RIBBON, BAND  
OR SCHOOL SCRUNCHIE AND **EXTREME HAIR  
STYLES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.** THIS IN-  
CLUDES STREAKS, HAIR COLOURING , LINES,  
SHAVED CUTS, UNDER CUTS, RATS TAILS,  
MULLET ETC.
- ◆ SPORTS SHOES MUST BE PREDOMINANTLY WHITE  
WITH WHITE LACES **NOT COLOURED.**
- ◆ SPORTS SOCK ARE WHITE COVERING THE ANKLE
- ◆ GIRLS SOCKS ARE LIGHT BLUE and BOYS ARE GREY  
WITH MAROON STRIPE (available at Lowes)
- ◆ NAIL POLISH is NOT PERMITTED
- ◆ SCHOOL HAT IS TO BE WORN OUTDOORS AT ALL  
TIMES (St John's Primary School has a NO HAT NO  
PLAY Policy)
- ◆ GIRLS AND BOYS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR  
TIES WITH THE WINTER SCHOOL UNIFORM
- ◆ GIRLS TAB TIES ARE AVAILABE FROM THE  
SCHOOL OFFICE FOR \$5
- ◆ BOYS TIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE  
SCHOOL OFFICE FOR \$17
- ◆ GIRLS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR GREY TIGHTS  
WITH THE WINTER UNIFORM

Thank You for your co-operation

# Parent Pick-up

Parents/Carers are asked to please wait in the parent pick up area in the under-croft and

**NOT TO CONGREGATE NEAR YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM OR IN THE AREA BETWEEN EARLY STAGE ONE AND STAGE ONE CLASSROOMS**

This is for the safety of all of our children. We appreciate your co-operation regarding this matter

# ASSEMBLY

Whole School Assembly is held  
**FRIDAY'S AT 2.30PM**

All Parent's/Carers/Family and Friends are most welcome to join our school community

## SCHOOL START AND FINISH TIMES

School commences at 8:50 am and concludes at 2:50 pm

All children that arrive after the morning bell need to be accompanied by a Parent/Carer to the office to complete a late arrival form that needs to be signed by the Parent/Carer. This is a legal requirement and the child will be processed as an unexplained partial absence if the Parent/Carer does not attend the office with the child. Please have your child at school before 8:50am.



## ST JOHN'S PLAYGROUP

Tuesday and Thursday  
9:15—11:15 am

If you have children under 5 years old, why not bring them along each Tuesday or Thursday to Playgroup in the Church Hall. Mums, dads, grandparents and carers are all welcome. For further inquiries please contact Tina on 9627 7625 or the Parish Office on 9627 1176

### School

5 McCulloch St Riverstone/PO Box 20, Riverstone, 2765  
Tel: 9627 2588 Email: [riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au)

[www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au)

**Principal: Patricia Charlton**

Office Hours 8.30 am—3.30pm

Call in for a School tour anytime

### Parish

Cnr Garfield Rd & McCulloch St  
Riverstone 2765.

Tel: 9627 1176 Email: [stjohns10@bigpond](mailto:stjohns10@bigpond)

**Parish Priest: Father Zakaria Gayed**

Weekend Mass Times:

Saturday 6pm, Sunday 7am & 9am